

December 8, 2008

The Common Council met as the Water Utility Board at 7:00 p.m. on the above date in the Meeting Room at City Hall Annex with Mayor Tucker presiding and members Askren, Fuelling, Hoehn, and Higgins attending. Board member Curtis was not present. Others attending were Supt. Gray; Chief Beloit; Chief Waters; Comm. Maynard; Richard DeMarco – Johnson Controls, Inc.; MaryAnn Fuelling; Ann Blackburn; Sis Claxton; Judy Whitten; Bob Boerner; Jamie Grabert – The Western Star; and Amy Moore – Mount Vernon Democrat.

Mayor Tucker called the meeting to order by stating members were either mailed or hand carried copies of the minutes of their previous meeting, as well as those from the Executive Session, and by asking if there were any corrections or additions. He added if not, he entertains a motion to waive their reading and to approve the minutes as presented.

Board member Fuelling moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented. Seconded by Board member Askren.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker requested action on the claims presented.

Board member Askren moved the claims presented be allowed for payment. Seconded by Board member Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

*****CLAIMS*****

Mayor Tucker stated Water Chairman Curtis is ill this evening and asked if Supt. Gray had a report.

Supt. Gray stated he has no report, but Mr. DeMarco is present with another update.

Mr. DeMarco reported work is still progressing on the new filter building with all of the structural steel in place; three walls are enclosed; and the building will be completely sealed by the third week of December. He then stated they are still working on the piping, the valves, and installation of the bridge from the Krofta building to the new building.

Mr. DeMarco continued his report by stating in reference to the lamella tanks, the pumps are scheduled to arrive the third week of December, and they will then be the piping and electrical. He stated this is also the case with the backwash supply house. He concluded his report by stating the Keck Station is now under roof, as well as under lock and key. He added they are 65% complete on the electrical. He asked if there were any questions ?

Board member Hoehn asked about the roof, what material was being used for that ?

Mr. DeMarco replied a prefab concrete top, which is then sealed, and completed with a membrane top piece. He added the facility is surrounded by flashing as well. He stated the purpose of the membrane is to prevent water from penetrating the building, which is common in buildings with flat roofs. He asked if there were any further questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker asked if the Clerk-Treasurer had any Communications ?

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe replied not at this time.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any Legals ?
There were none.

Mayor Tucker asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Board ?
There was no response.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any Old Business ?
There was none.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any New Business ?
There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated if there were no further business, he entertains a motion to adjourn.
Board member Fuelling moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Board member Higgins.
Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried and adjourned the meeting.

John Tucker
Mayor

ATTEST:

Cristi L. Wolfe
Clerk-Treasurer

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The Common Council met immediately following the Water Utility Board on the above date in the Meeting Room at City Hall Annex with Mayor Tucker presiding and members Askren, Fuelling, Hoehn, and Higgins attending. Councilman Curtis was not present. Others attending were Supt. Gray; Chief Beloit; Chief Waters; Comm. Maynard; MaryAnn Fuelling; Ann Blackburn; Sis Claxton; Judy Whitten; Bob Boerner; Jamie Grabert – The Western Star; and Amy Moore – Mount Vernon Democrat.

Mayor Tucker called the meeting to order by stating members were either mailed or hand carried copies of the minutes of their previous meeting, and by asking if there were any corrections or additions. He added if not, he entertains a motion to waive their reading and to approve the minutes as presented.
Councilwoman Higgins moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented. Seconded by Board member Fuelling.
Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the reports of the Standing Committees.

Street & Light Chairwoman Askren stated per Comm. Maynard, the last day for leaf collection will be December 19, but anyone having leaves after that date may call the Street Department for pick up.
Comm. Maynard stated he has no report.
Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Police & Dog Chairman Fuelling stated he has no report.

Chief Beloat stated he has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Fire Chairwoman Hoehn stated she has no report.

Chief Waters stated he has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Sewer Chairwoman Higgins stated she has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker stated they have the Financial Report for November before them and any questions could be directed to Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe.

Mayor Tucker asked if the Clerk-Treasurer had any Communications for the Council ?

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe replied not at this time.

Mayor Tucker stated first item on the Legal portion of the Agenda is Public Hearing relative to an Ordinance of Additional Appropriations in the Local Road & Street and COIT Funds. He then opened the public hearing by asking if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Additional Appropriation ?

There was no response.

Mayor Tucker stated as there was no response, he will close the public hearing. He then entertained a motion.

Councilwoman Askren moved the ordinance pass on final reading. Seconded by Councilman Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Askren – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – absent; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe added it will be numbered 08-36.

Mayor Tucker stated the next item is a Resolution to Transfer in the General, Park & Recreation, and MVHF Funds.

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe stated this is simply for moving money around in individual budgets, to cover where some categories may be over. It is not a loan or new money.

Councilwoman Askren moved the Resolution pass. Seconded by Councilwoman Hoehn.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Askren – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – absent; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe added it will be numbered 08-37.

Mayor Tucker stated the final item is a Resolution Declaring an Emergency and Authorizing the Extension for the Repayment of Loan of Funds Involving Loan Payments Due from the Motor Vehicle Highway Fund and the Park and Recreation Fund to the Motor Vehicle Highway II Fund, the Police Pension Fund and the Firemen's Pension Fund.

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe explained this is a result of the loans they have made during the year, which are to be paid back by December 31, 2008. She added due to not receiving tax proceeds, they are unable to pay these back before that time, and the Resolution before them extends the payback period for six months.

Councilwoman Askren moved the Resolution pass. Seconded by Councilwoman Hoehn.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Askren – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – absent; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe added it will be numbered 08-38.

Mayor Tucker asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Council ?

There was no response.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any Old Business ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any New Business ?

Councilman Fuelling stated he has met with Chief Belloat recently about the employees' sick day ordinance. He stated they feel it would be advantageous to the City to make a few changes, as police and fire are currently different from the other full time City employees. He then presented the following information, before the proposed change:

(B) Full-time employees (other than police officer and firefighters on active pension plans).

- (1) (1) Any full-time employee of the city of any of its departments or utilities, who is unable to perform his or her duties by reason of sickness, accident or injury, shall be entitled to not more than five working days sick leave in one calendar year with full pay. In the event a full-time employee does not use all available sick days during a year, the employee may carry over and accumulate up to 15 unused sick days resulting in not more than 20 working days sick leave (five for current year and up to 15 carry over days) in one calendar year at the employee's regular rate of pay.

PROPOSED CHANGE:

- (1) (1) Any full time employee of the city of any of its departments or utilities, who is unable to perform his or her duties by reason of sickness, accident or injury, shall be entitled to not more than five working days sick leave in one calendar year with full pay. In the event a full-time employee does not use all available sick days during a calendar year, the employee may carry over and accumulate up to 25 unused sick days resulting in not more than 30 working days sick leave (five for current year and up to 25 carry over days) in one calendar year at the employee's regular rate of pay.

Councilman Fuelling then cited the following current policy for police officers and firefighters:

(c) In the event a member of the Fire Department or Police Department does not use all available sick days during a year, the member may carry over up to 10 unused sick days resulting in not more than 20 working days sick leave (10 for the current year and up to 10 carry-over days) in one calendar year at his or her regular rate of pay.

PROPOSED CHANGE:

(c) In the event a member of the Fire Department or Police Department does not use all available sick days during a year, the member may carry over up to 5 unused sick days resulting in not more than 30 working days sick leave (5 for the current year and up to 25 carry-over days) in one calendar year at his or her regular rate of pay.

Councilman Fuelling added they have had conversations with Attorney Higgins about the changes, and she indicates it could be changed without much trouble. He asked if there were any questions or comments, as they can get pretty confusing.

Councilwoman Higgins asked if the Chief Water has had a chance to absorb this proposed new change ? Chief Waters replied he has heard about it, but seen nothing. He then wondered what if an employee already had 20 sick days banked ?

Councilman Fuelling replied they would start off with a bank of 15, and then all employees would be on a 5 – 15. Again, he stated Attorney Higgins said she could clean this up and present it to the Council in an easier to understand format.

Councilwoman Hoehn asked when an employee earns sick time, at the beginning of the year, or during the year, at increments ?

Councilman Fuelling replied at the beginning of the year.

Councilwoman Hoehn asked if this means then that at the end up five years, an employee could be eligible for a six week leave if needed ?

Councilman Fuelling replied yes, but it wouldn't take five years, unless you were a new hire.

Councilwoman Hoehn stated she thinks this sounds like a good thing and she thanked Councilman Fuelling and Chief Beloit for trying to find a solution.

Council then consented to have Attorney Higgins prepare a draft ordinance for the next meeting.

Chief Beloit added this changes nothing for the civilian employees, only it will add 10 more days to their sick bank. He stated no one loses anything.

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the reports of the Districts.

1st District Councilwoman Askren stated she has no report.

2nd District Councilman Fuelling stated he has no report.

3rd District Councilwoman Hoehn stated she has no report.

4th District Councilman Curtis was not present.

Councilwoman-at-Large Higgins stated she has no report.

Mayor Tucker stated the City of Mount Vernon has received an additional \$400,000 for the riverfront project. He explained in September he received an updated estimate on the cost of the project, and it had gone up substantially. He then contacted INDOT in October to see if there was any additional money available, and when told there was, he filled out the necessary paperwork. He concluded by stating he was notified December 4 that they were successful. He added that is a great development for the City.

Mayor Tucker stated if there were no further business, he entertains a motion to adjourn. Councilman Fuelling moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Councilwoman Higgins. Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously and adjourned the meeting.

John Tucker
Mayor

ATTEST:

Cristi L. Wolfe
Clerk-Treasurer